

Those persons desiring to be notified upon receipt of their comments in the rules docket should enclose a self-addressed, stamped postcard in the envelope with their comments. Upon receiving the comments, the docket supervisor will return the postcard by mail.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 322, 30111, 30115, 30117, and 30166; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50.

Issued on: April 2, 1996.

Barry Felrice,
*Associate Administrator for Safety
Performance Standards.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AD20

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Proposed Special Rule for the Conservation of the Northern Spotted Owl on Non-Federal Lands

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Extension of Public Comment Period.

SUMMARY: The Service issued a Draft Environmental Alternatives Analysis (EAA) for the proposed special rule for the conservation of the northern spotted owl on non-Federal lands in California and Washington, which is currently out for public comment. The proposed special rule was published in the Federal Register on February 17, 1995 (60 FR 9484). The comment period for both documents was scheduled to end on April 8, 1996. The intent of this document is to extend the comment period to June 3, 1996.

The Service has received numerous requests to extend the comment period for these documents from state regulatory agencies, conservation groups and industry officials in both Washington and California. In addition, the State of Washington has prepared a proposed rule under authority of the Washington Timber Practices Board that would address impacts of forest practices to the northern spotted owl. The state has asked the Service to consider their proposed state rule as a possible alternative to the current special rule proposed by the Service. The Service seeks additional comments from the interested public, agencies, and interest groups on the Draft EAA, the

proposed special rule, and on the State of Washington's proposed rule as a possible alternative to the rule currently proposed by the Fish and Wildlife.

DATES: The comment period for written comments is extended until June 3, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments and materials concerning this Draft Environmental Alternatives Analysis and the proposed rule should be sent to Mr. Michael J. Spear, Regional Director, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 911 N.E. 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4181. The complete file for this proposed rule will be available for public inspection, by appointment during normal business hours, at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Technical Support for Forest Resources, 333 S.W. 1st Avenue, 4th Floor, Portland, Oregon 97204, (503/326-6218).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Curt Smith, Assistant Regional Director, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3704 Griffin Lane S.E., Suite 102, Olympia, Washington 98501, (206/534-9330); or Ron Crete, Office of Technical Support for Forest Resources, 333 S.W. 1st Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4181, (503/326-6218).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Service has prepared a draft document called an Environmental Alternatives Analysis (EAA) that describes and analyzes the potential environmental effects of the proposed special rule and six alternatives for the conservation of the northern spotted owl on non-Federal lands in Washington and California. Each alternative would revise to varying degrees the Federal prohibitions and exceptions regarding the incidental take of spotted owls on non-Federal lands in California and Washington. The proposed rule, analyzed in the Draft EAA as Alternative 3, was published in the Federal Register on February 17, 1995 (60 FR, No. 33, Page 9484).

In addition, the State of Washington has prepared a proposed rule to address the impacts of forest practices on northern spotted owls in that state. The state's proposed rule is similar in many ways to the Service's proposed 4(d) rule, although there are some differences. The state has asked the Service to consider the state rule as an alternative to the Service's current proposed rule.

The Service is in the process of analyzing the state rule, and plans to publish in the Federal Register within two weeks a summary of the state's rule and a comparison of that rule with the Service's proposed rule. The state's comment period for their proposed rule has expired, however, the Service is interested in receiving comment from

the interested public regarding the possibility of the Washington state rule as an alternative to the Service's currently proposed special rule. To receive a copy of the State of Washington proposed rule and the state's Draft Environmental Impact Statement, write to Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Forest Practices Division, P.O. Box 47012, Olympia, WA 98504-7012, Attn: Judith Holter.

The Service's Draft EAA, including all maps, tables, charts, and graphs, remains available on the Internet's World Wide Web at <http://www.r1.fws.gov/4deaa/welcome.html>.

Dated: April 3, 1996.

Don Weathers,

Acting Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 681

[Docket No. 960401094-6094-01; I.D. 022296D]

RIN 0648-AI32

Western Pacific Crustacean Fisheries; Amendment 9

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Proposed rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues a proposed rule to implement Amendment 9 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Crustacean Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region (FMP). The rule would establish a new annual harvest limitation program for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) lobster fishery based on the status of stocks and an explicit level of risk of overfishing. This would eliminate operational problems with the current quota system. Current prohibitions on retaining juvenile lobsters and berried lobsters would be eliminated. The rule would establish framework procedures to implement regulatory changes if needed in the future. The rule is intended to maintain the productivity of the stocks while providing a reasonable opportunity for permit holders to participate in the fishery and to maintain their markets. The changes also would improve the